



Wednesday
NOVEMBER

redeyechicago

A Chicago Tribune publication

★ FREE ★

LENNY GILMORE /
REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Our sudoku
ninja says
no RedEye
on Thursday!

\$45 buys new
Goose Island beer 7

'Burlesque' doubles
the divas 30

'Dancing' champion—
is it Bristol Palin? 44

best bets

By Linda Hays
metromix@tribune.com



For hip-hoppers

FREE
LaSalle Power Co.,
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Catch a performance by Chicago rapper Na Palm as he mixes it up with his "dirty beats." Hip-hop duo Rich Kiddz also performs. DJs Chris Mixx, Jesse Seely and Dre Martin spin. 9 p.m.

For rockin' jesters

FREE
Cole's,
2338 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-276-5802

Chuckle at the bar's Black

Wednesday comedy showcase featuring Cameron Esposito, Adam Burke and Junior Stopka. Afterward, jam out to a rock 'n' roll showcase (10:30 p.m.) with The Runnies and White Mystery. 9:30 p.m.

For cowboys/girls

The Pony, 1638 W. Belmont Ave. 773-828-5055

Kick up your heels as country-rock band Grimm Taylor performs at the bar's Black Wednesday party. Festive food and drink specials include \$4 Wild Turkey, \$4 Don Julio, \$3.50 seasonal pints and a trio of mini-sliders for \$5 with turkey, cranberry chutney and gravy. 8 p.m. No cover.

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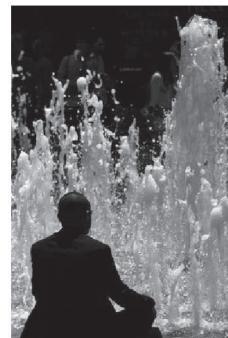
Best photo challenge

Got some serious skills with a camera? Show us! Each week RedEye picks a theme, and then we post our favorite submissions on our blog. Here is our latest installment.

» Your next assignment: Capture a photo with the theme "Thanksgiving." The winning photo from this week's theme, "paper," won't appear in print Thursday because of the holiday, but you can find the rules plus the winner at redeyechicago.com/photos. Here are a few past winners.



"Doors"
Heather Kribs, 29,
Orland Park



"Water"
Joe Rondone, 29,
West Town



"Refreshing"
Frank U. Alvarez, 62,
Edgewater



"Secrets"
Robin Parish, 56,
Wheaton



40 34

TODAY'S FORECAST

Clouds. Rain.
Cold. Blah.



THU.

37

23

We lose
the clouds ...

FRI.

32

25

... but get
lower
temperatures



SAT.

38

28

Fun in
the sun?

SUN.

43

35

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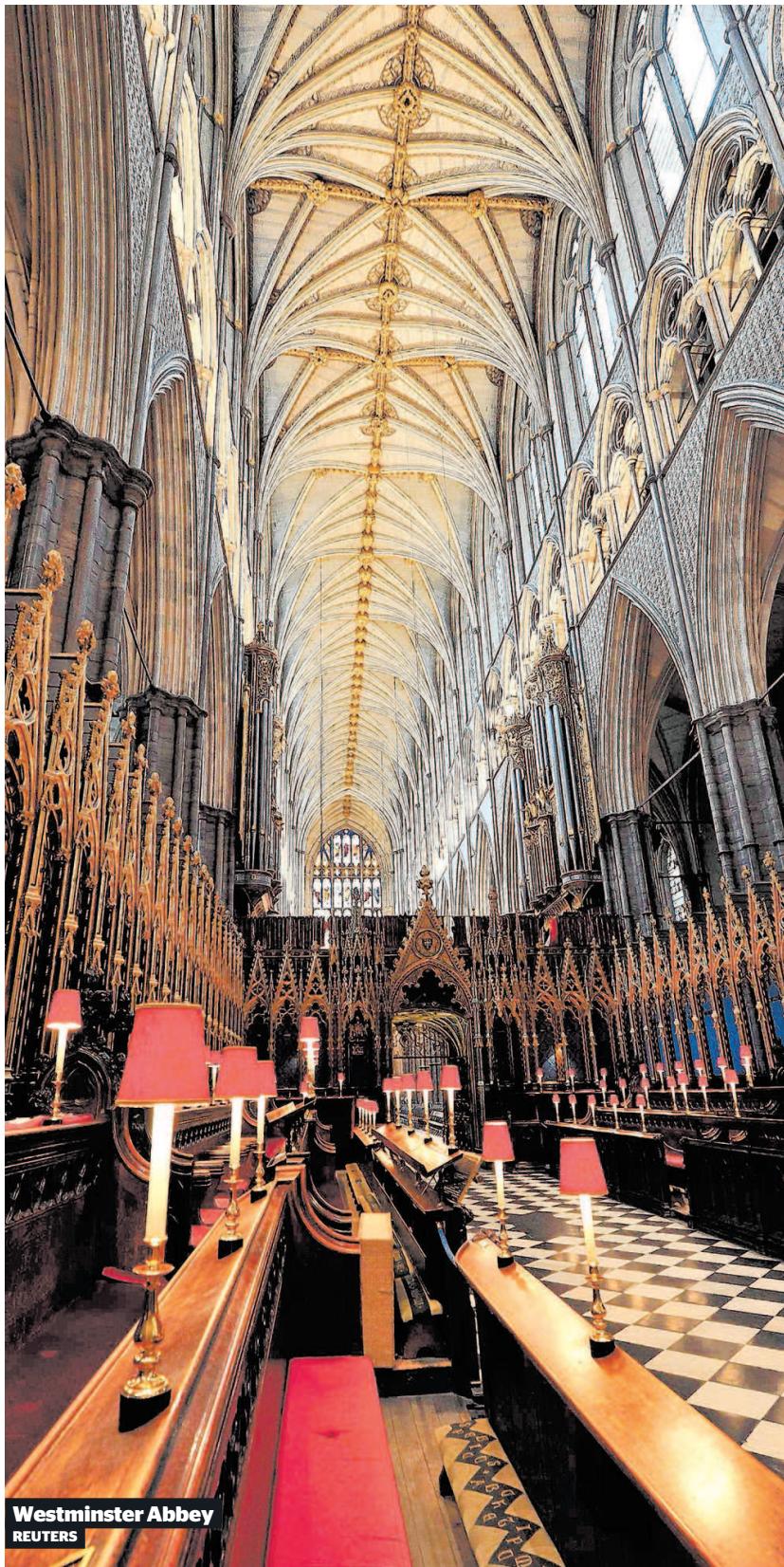
THURSDAYS 8p

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ROYAL FUSS



Everything you ever wanted to know about William and Kate's wedding site, Westminster Abbey

Mark your calendars, royalty watchers. The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton has been announced for April 29! Here are a few facts about Westminster Abbey in London, where the ceremony will take place. **REUTERS**

1 The Abbey became a popular venue for royal weddings when Princess Patricia of Connaught chose it for her marriage to the Honorable Alexander Ramsay in 1919. It was the first time in 650 years that the Abbey had been used for a royal wedding.

2 Although St. Paul's Cathedral was the venue for the wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, Westminster Abbey was the venue for the funeral service of Diana in September 1997, just days after she was killed in a car crash in Paris.

3 Around 960 A.D., Dunstan, Bishop of London, established a group of Benedictine monks on "Thorney Island," an isolated marshy area of land on the banks of the River Thames.

4 Edward the Confessor built a new church on the site, which was consecrated in 1065. Edward died a few days after the consecration, was buried in the Abbey and later made a saint.



5 Henry III pulled down the whole church in 1245 (except the nave) and replaced it with the present Abbey in the pointed Gothic style of the period.

6 Since William the Conqueror, every English sovereign has been crowned in the Abbey with the exception of Edward V and every British sovereign since the union of the English and Scottish

Crowns in 1603, with the exception of Edward VIII.

7 Edward V was deposed and probably murdered by his uncle, Richard III. Edward VIII abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Many kings and queens are buried near the shrine of Edward the Confessor or in Henry VII's chapel.

8 The last sovereign to be buried in the Abbey was George II (died 1760); since then they have been buried at Windsor Castle.

9 The Abbey is crowded with the tombs and memorials of famous British subjects, including Isaac Newton, David Livingstone and Ernest Rutherford.

10 Part of the south transept (or wing) is known as Poets' Corner and includes the tombs of Geoffrey Chaucer, Ben Jonson (who was buried upright), John Dryden, Robert Browning and many others.



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*Restrictions apply. Call office for details. Offer expires December 17, 2010.



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JASON STEELE
ritaredeye@tribune.com

TALK TO US

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Strip-a-thon? A great cause

Traditionally when you think of fundraisers, you think of bake sales, auctions or boring \$100-a-plate dinners with stuffy people in stuffy rooms that require you to stop for pizza on the way home because all you got to eat was one soft-shell crab with asparagus foam and bacon-wrapped bacon.

Well, leave it to the gay community to come up with a creative and sexy way to raise money for a cause: an online strip-a-thon!

TPAN, the Test Positive Aware Network, a nonprofit group that empowers people living with HIV through a variety of support services and advocacy, is holding its third annual Bar-lesque competition through the end of the month. The hook: Visit a gallery of 13 local guys at bar-lesque.org and vote—with your wallet—for the one you think is the hottest. The more money he raises, the more naked he gets. (I've already pumped some money into the site and have gone to a Bar-lesque party at Spin trying to get the guys to drop trou. I won't tell you whom I have donated money to, but I will say he has facial hair and tattoos and is HOT.)

When I mentioned this fundraiser to a straight couple, they were impressed by its creativity.

"That's way more exciting than Girl Scout cookies," Jen said.

When Jen's boyfriend, Kristian, saw her interest in a male strip-a-thon, he cried double-standard. Not for the bar-lesque.org event, but because he noted that if he went to a strip bar and put dollars in a dancer's G-string his girlfriend would not be happy.

This evolved into a debate about how the gay community is more accepting or forgiving of using sex to drum up business. It's not uncommon to go to a gay bar in any city and see shirtless bartenders, go-go boys dancing on a stage or sexy videos playing in the TV screens. In fact, I'm disappointed if I go to bar and they don't have at least one of these things. It's part of the culture of the community, and gay couples usually don't get upset if one partner puts dollars down a dancer's skivvies while the other looks on.

Compare that with the male half of a straight couple going to the Admiral and flirting with a stripper. That usually doesn't go over so well. Hell, I know girls who won't even let their men go to Hooters because of irrational jealousy—and those Hooters girls wear like three pairs of pantyhose under their shorts. That's not hot.

Men are men, and we like to be visually stimulated. So if a bar wants to have waitresses in tiny tilted kilts or buff shirtless bartenders in order to drum up business, it should.

And if a not-for-profit wants to tap into that consumer demand as well and feature a site in which the guys' clothes go down the more their donations go up, then I will max out my credit card. Besides, it's all for a good cause!

JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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Gov. Quinn (left) and Sen. Bill Brady met Tuesday at Manny's Coffee Shop for a post-gubernatorial election lunch. TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/Tribune

Sandwich politics

Quinn, Brady break bread at Chicago deli

Chicago Tribune

There was no beer but plenty of beef Tuesday as Democratic Gov. Quinn and Republican challenger Bill Brady sought to bury the hatchet over sandwiches at a popular Chicago deli.

The lunch date came three weeks after Quinn squeaked out a 20,000-vote victory in a contentious campaign for governor marked by personal and political attacks.

The meeting was modeled after a sit-down over beers at the Billy Goat Tavern by Republican U.S. Sen.-elect Mark Kirk and Democratic challenger Alexi Giannoulias.

"I think the great thing about our country and definitely our state is you can have a robust contest for elected office, but when the election's over ... people can still be civil and decent," Quinn said afterward.

While the rivals exchanged pleasantries over mammoth corned beef sandwiches and potato pancakes, they didn't put aside all their differences—namely whether Illinois needs an income tax increase to help

solve the state's worsening budget problem.

"The governor and I have agreed to disagree," Brady said. "I continue to believe that we over-tax Illinois businesses and families. He believes there is room within Illinois' economy for a tax increase."

Brady said he doesn't think there's an appetite among lawmakers for a tax hike, though the state senator didn't leave hungry.

"It was a nice conversation," Brady said. "It was particularly nice that he bought lunch."

Quinn, known for his thrift, held the yellow receipt aloft as proof.



The governor and I have agreed to disagree. I continue to believe that we over-tax Illinois businesses and families. He believes there is room within Illinois' economy for a tax increase."

— Bill Brady

Behind Goose Island's \$45 brew

Chicago Tribune

Go ahead and get the double take out of the way: The beer that Goose Island is releasing Friday costs nearly \$45 a bottle. Yes, you read right. Close to \$45. Per bottle. Good thing it's a 22-ounce bottle.

Eagerly anticipated by beer geeks for months, Rare Bourbon County Brand Stout will be available at 9 a.m. at Binny's Lincoln Park location in bottles and on draft at 10 a.m. at the Goose Island Brew Pub on Clybourn Avenue. Those are the only two places you'll find it through the weekend; next Monday, it will be on liquor store shelves throughout the city.

But probably not for long. Most observers expect all 940 cases—more than 11,000 bottles that will be sent to Goose's 18-state distribution network—to be sold within a couple of weeks. Binny's beer manager Adam Vavrick said customers have been asking about the beer for eight months.

"I don't anticipate it will last more than that day," Vavrick said.

So what exactly is BCS Rare (as the Goose folks call it)? The Rare is simply an aged version of the already widely-available Bourbon County Brand Stout. Two things make this version different: It has been aged for two years (nearly three times as long as the regular stuff) and in barrels that previously spent 23 years aging Pappy Van Winkle's bourbon (a significant upgrade from the Heaven Hill barrels Goose usually uses).

It makes for a profoundly dark and rich beer with 25 years of booze-making behind it.

"These barrels started life in 1985," Goose Island brew master Greg Hall said. "It's funny to think what we were doing in 1985. Reagan was starting his second term. The Bears won the Super Bowl. I was a freshman at Iowa. And it was three years before Goose Island opened."



Police search for clues in officer's death

Chicago Tribune

Even at 45, David Blake was a neighborhood kid to the Beverly residents who watched him grow from a quiet youth who loved playing football into a member of an elite Chicago police unit.

On Tuesday, residents and friends mourned Blake's death as his police colleagues tried to figure out what happened on the quiet, dead-end street where the 15-year veteran was

killed Monday night while off-duty.

Blake was found fatally shot Monday evening inside his SUV, a cigarette still dangling from his mouth, sources said. The vehicle was parked in the 2900 block of West Seipp Street in Ashburn, nearly three miles from his boyhood home in Beverly and about four miles from his current residence.

Police were called to the block after several residents heard a volley of shots.

Blake had been shot multiple times, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. He was believed to have been shot from inside the vehicle, sources said; all its windows were rolled up. Blake's wallet and service weapon also were recovered, leading investigators to think robbery was unlikely.

It was not immediately clear why Blake was targeted or why he was even on the block.

Police were saying little about the investiga-

tion Tuesday beyond a statement from Superintendent Jody Weis in the morning.

"We've done this too many times this year, and it's with a great deal of sadness that once again I stand before you announcing the death of a Chicago police officer," Weis said.

Blake was the fourth officer to be fatally shot while off-duty since May. A fifth officer was killed in a car crash while responding to a burglary call in February.

Bond set at \$200K for orthodontist

Bond was set at \$200,000 for a Northwest Side orthodontist who was arrested this summer for allegedly fondling a teenage patient during an office visit. Prosecutors allege the incident took place in the 4800 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

Man accused a 2nd time of animal cruelty

An Aurora-area man who served a jail sentence in the 1990s for chaining his dog to a car and dragging it to death has been accused again of animal cruelty, according to Kane County Sheriff's police.

FBI, police bust alleged drug ring

FBI agents and police officers arrested five people allegedly involved in a drug ring in the south suburbs after authorities listened in on their cell phone calls and made undercover drug buys from them in an 18-month investigation, according to the FBI.

TRIBUNE



A galaxy near here

Sunny Simpson stares down the camera Tuesday as he promotes "A Klingon Christmas Carol" on Michigan Avenue. The show will be at the Greenhouse Theater Center from Friday through Dec. 19. WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE

Man killed trying to stop robbery

Chicago Tribune

A man was shot to death as he tried to help a woman being robbed of her purse on the West Side on Monday evening, police say.

Bobby Butler, 55, was shot in the abdomen just before 6 p.m. Monday in Lawndale and was pronounced dead at 7:55 p.m., according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Officials had identified the victim as Bobie Butler, but public records indicate he went by "Bobby."

Butler had come to the aid of a 26-year-old woman who was being robbed at gunpoint in the 2100 block of South Millard Avenue, according to Chicago Police

News Affairs Officer Daniel O'Brien.

A Fire Department spokesman said Butler was taken to the hospital from the 1800 block of South Drake Avenue.

The woman had walked from a nearby "L" stop to her car and was about to get in when she was confronted by a man about 25-30 years old who threatened her with a gun, according to a police report.

Butler saw what was going on, came up to the robber, tried to stop him and was shot, according to the report.

The robber ran away.

The woman was unharmed, according to police.

Chico gets a boost in campaign for mayor

And Davis questions Emanuel residency

Chicago Tribune

Gery Chico's mayoral campaign got some help Tuesday when he got the backing of Paul Vallas, his onetime partner in revamping Chicago Public Schools.

Standing outside the Orozco School in Pilsen, a school built when the duo ran the city's school system, Vallas said Chico is most prepared to tackle the tough job of mayor.

"This election has got to be about who is ready from Day 1 to run this city," Vallas said. "There is no one more familiar with this city, its neighborhoods, its city council, its government, its politics, its issues, than Gery Chico."

Several blocks west, mayoral candidate U.S. Rep. Danny Davis said opponent Rahm Emanuel does not fit the residency requirements to run for Chicago mayor because until recently he worked as President Obama's White House chief of staff in Washington.

"Based upon what I have read, I have not seen anything that would suggest to me that he meets the requirements of the law," Davis said. The law requires candidates to have lived in Chicago for a year before the Feb. 22 election.

Emanuel insists he qualifies, in part, because he still owns a home in the city.

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CLOSED THANKSGIVING



Smoke rises Tuesday from South Korea's Yeonpyeong island after North Korea launched an artillery attack on its neighbor.

GETTY IMAGES

Study: Social media strengthens personal ties

1 Contrary to common belief, social media websites such as Facebook do not weaken personal ties. Instead, they strengthen them in unique ways for different age groups, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Texas.

Southwest gun clip scare

2 The discovery of a loaded gun clip aboard a Southwest Airlines jet Tuesday sparked a security scare at the Phoenix airport, until it was determined that the clip was left by a law enforcement officer, the airline said.

'More Canadian sex stories'

3 A small but significant slip of the tongue had Canada's industry minister, Tony Clement, pleading for "more Canadian sex stories" Monday, although he quickly insisted he was actually talking about success—not sex.

Polar bears vs. grizzly bears

4 Polar bears are likely to lose out to grizzly bears in fierce competition for food as climate change drives the two species closer together into shared habitat, biologists concluded in a study released Tuesday at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Vatican expands condom announcement

5 Pope Benedict's landmark acknowledgement that condoms are sometimes morally justifiable to stop AIDS can apply to anyone—gays, heterosexuals and transsexuals—if that is the only option to avoid transmitting the HIV virus to others, the Vatican said Tuesday.

Thanksgiving fires

There are more home fires on Thanksgiving than any other day of the year, with fire departments responding to triple the normal number of incidents, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



White House condemns attack on South Korea

6 **WASHINGTON** The U.S. urged restraint Tuesday following a North Korean artillery attack on South Korea and vowed to forge a "measured and unified" response with major powers, including China.

North Korea fired several dozen artillery shells at a South Korean island in one of the heaviest bombardments of the South since the Korean War ended in 1953, sharply increasing tensions on the divided peninsula.

South Korea warned North Korea of "enormous retaliation" if it took more aggressive steps. But the U.S., which has about 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea, played down the chances of any immediate

U.S. military action to deter the reclusive state.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young agreed to coordinate any response to the North Korean action, the Pentagon said, adding that Gates expressed his appreciation for the "restraint shown to date."

The U.S. labeled the attack a violation of the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, as it did North Korea's March attack on a South Korean warship that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

But State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. was seeking a unified

diplomatic front with North Korea's neighbors, including China, Pyongyang's sole remaining major backer, which has in the past resisted international efforts to get tough with its isolated ally.

"We're going to take a measured and unified approach," said Toner, adding, "We're not going to respond willy nilly."

The White House condemned the attack. President Obama was awoken at 3:55 a.m. for an emergency briefing and was outraged over the strike, the White House said. He was due to speak with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, White House spokesman Bill Burton said.



THE DIGIT

2 million

The Beatles sold more than 2 million individual songs and more than 450,000 albums worldwide in their first week of release on Apple's iTunes store, Apple said Tuesday.

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TURKEY PLAYS

NFL's annual holiday matchups have served up many memorable moments

RedEye

Like your quirky uncle, annoying in-laws and post-meal nap, the NFL's slate of Turkey Day games is a Thanksgiving tradition. A tradition that stretches back to the 1920s. Yes, even before the days of John Madden and his turducken.

And like Thanksgiving, those games have given us lasting memories—good and bad—that many of us will rehash as we settle in for another blow to the city of Detroit. Here are some of the best—worst?—of the Thanksgiving games, ranked on our turkey leg meter.

1997

Detroit 55, Bears 20

Sorry, Bears fans, but this one makes the list. Not because of the game itself, but because of the performance of Lions legend Barry Sanders. In what turned out to be the star running back's next-to-last season, Sanders ran for 167 yards and three touchdowns. He would go on to run for 2,053 yards that season.

2006

Dallas 38, Tampa Bay 10

Perhaps this one should be called the Tony Romo Game. Romo (right) threw for five touchdowns in Dallas, two of them to receiver Terry Glenn, two to running back Marion Barber and one to receiver Terrell "T.O." Owens, in his fifth game as the Cowboys' starter. It completed his rise from no-name to superstar, and the NFL and the Cowboys—for better or worse—have been stuck with him since.

TURKEY KEY

Thank god for sports

Seconds, please

What's for dessert?

Zzzzzzz



GETTY IMAGES FILE

1993

Miami 16, Dallas 14

Forever known as the Leon Lett Game, this is the game that has set the standard for the NFL on Thanksgiving. With 15 seconds left, the Cowboys led the Dolphins 14-13 in a snowy Texas Stadium as Miami kicker Pete Stoyanovich lined up to try a 41-yard field goal. The kick was blocked, and the ball slid to around the Dallas 5-yard line, where it continued to spin in the snow. All Dallas needed to do was let the ball stop and they would be awarded possession. Instead, Lett dived for the ball and knocked it to the 1, where Miami recovered it and kicked the game-winner. D'oh.



1998

Detroit 19, Pittsburgh 16

Another iconic moment in Thanksgiving Day NFL history. After the Steelers and Lions played to a tie in regulation, the game came down to overtime. During the pre-OT coin toss, Pittsburgh running back Jerome Bettis starts to call heads, then calls tails. The coin lands tails up and the Lions get the ball because Bettis called heads first. When they got the ball, the Lions moved into field-goal range and Jason Hanson kicked a 42-yarder for the win.

No thanks for these 10

As I daydreamed about sliding on my Zubaz and stuffing my face on Thanksgiving, naturally my mind wandered to turkey. And considering my brain associates everything with sports, it was only a matter of time before I created this list for you to enjoy. Here are the Top Ten Chicago Turkeys. Happy Thanksgiving.



top ten chicago sports

MATT OLSEN
chicagonow.com/blogs

10 Virginia McCaskey

I love the old gal, but I think she's got too much tryptophan in her system and fell asleep at the wheel while running the Bears franchise.

9 Oney Guillen

Note to Oney: It might be time to shut your mouth instead of forcing your dad to defend his kid's Twitter ramblings.

8 Lovie Smith

I had a taste for some succulent lame duck, but it looks like we'll have another helping of original recipe Lovie next year.

7 James Delany

How could we expect the Big Ten commish to think about Wrigley safety risks ahead of time when he was too busy daydreaming about dollar signs?

6 Carlos Boozer

Excuse me for being a bit skeptical about a \$75 million big man who couldn't avoid tripping over a massive gym bag in broad daylight.

5 Dwyane Wade

After the way you teased us over the summer, I'm enjoying watching the Heat's epic failures.

4 Jim Hendry

Just like the turkey pardoned by the president every year, it's only a matter of time before Hendry's luck runs out with the Cubs.

3 Bears' O-line

The Bills, Vikings and Dolphins would make any line look good. It's like smothering bad turkey in a mountain of gravy, stuffing and mashed potatoes.

2 Stan Bowman

Thanks for giving us a lifeless group of Hawks who fit under the cap. Sometimes it comes down to more than dollars and cents.

1 Tom Ricketts

Don't expect Chicagoans to support your \$200 million plan for Wrigley Field renovations when your family is sitting on Scrooge McDuck stacks of cash. [READ A NEW TOP 10 SPORTS LIST EVERY DAY AT CHICAGONOW.COM/TOP-TEN-CHICAGO-SPORTS](http://CHICAGONOW.COM/TOP-TEN-CHICAGO-SPORTS)

Meat & greet

Before heading off to Thanksgiving break, here's guest Meg Moscato, whose dreams came true by visiting redeyechicago.com/5on5.



TOPIC	ERNEST WILKINS twitter.com/remixchicago	JULIE DICARO twitter.com/aleagueofherown	SOXMAN twitter.com/thesoxman72	ASHLEY BOND chicagoland.com/bodybybond	MEG MOSCATO twitter.com/megmoscato
1 What are your Thanksgiving sports traditions?	Ho-Flo Turkey Bowl, baby! All my out-of-shape people say "Hooooooo!"	I throw things at the TV while screaming about the Lions having the Thanksgiving contract.	A turkey bowl, a pie bowl, sleep bowl, leftover bowl, Pepto bowl.	Playing football in the backyard with my family before dinner. And does a game of Scattergories count?	Turkey and football with family, which is better than how Tiger Woods spent his Thanksgiving last year.
2 What's your favorite memory of Thanksgiving NFL games?	Wondering every year why the NFL thinks we want to see Detroit play.	The lowly Lions beating Favre and the Pack in 2003. It still gives me warm fuzzies.	NFL? My older brothers always played the No Food Left game with me.	Tryptophan has made me sleepy every year, but I couldn't see past the table full of food anyway.	John Madden awarding the turducken to the "players of the game." Good thing they weren't counting calories!
3 If you're the Bulls or Blackhawks, how do you celebrate Thanksgiving on the road?	Having some turkey instead of playing like one?	Do they have Boston Market on the West Coast?	Bulls: Gobble up rebounds. Blackhawks: Leave no leftovers in front of the net.	Meet, with costumes and Cup in tow, and have dinner Pilgrims-and-Indians-style.	The Blackhawks are taking the Stanley Cup and eating Thanksgiving dinner out of it.
4 Who is your sports turkey of the year?	Same as every year: The University of Florida. All of them. Go 'Noles.	LeBron James, for managing to ruin his reputation in one ill-advised ESPN special.	Brett Favre. Looks like he was done last year. Now he's dry and overcooked.	Brett Favre. Too much drama and not enough athletic accomplishments this season.	LeBron James. Giving 700 turkeys to your hometown this Thanksgiving doesn't make you the "King" again.
5 How are Chicago sports like Black Friday?	Everything is really over-hyped, and we end up with nothing to show for it.	Millions of desperate, angry people shoving each other—I think it's obvious.	We think the hot item is in the bag, yet we always lose out.	Both start early in the morning and end with participants passed out—for different reasons, of course.	There will be some good running, blocking and tackling on the field—and at your local Wal-Mart.

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from news services

shortstops



Bryan Bickell tries a wrap-around shot during the Blackhawks' 7-1 win over Vancouver on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

Hawks still trippin'

Second half of road swing begins with Western Conference finals rematch

SAN JOSE, Calif. With Western Canada a fading memory and Las Vegas more of a fuzzy one, the Blackhawks are set to kick off the second half of their circus trip.

The first three games were a roller coaster as the Hawks sandwiched two dominating performances around a dreadful one. After bonding in Sin City (everyone made it to San Jose in one piece, by the way), dates against the Sharks, Anaheim and L.A. loom beginning Wednesday night in San Jose in a rematch between Western Conference finals foes from a season ago.

During the U.S. portion of the odyssey, the Hawks will continue their search for consistency that has eluded them this season. They hammered the Oilers and Canucks 12-1 combined, but the Flames thrashed them 7-2.

» Texas outfielder Josh Hamilton capped a dominant season by being selected the 2010 American League most valuable player by the Baseball Writers Association of America. White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko finished fifth.

HAWKS SCORE IN ALL-STAR VOTING

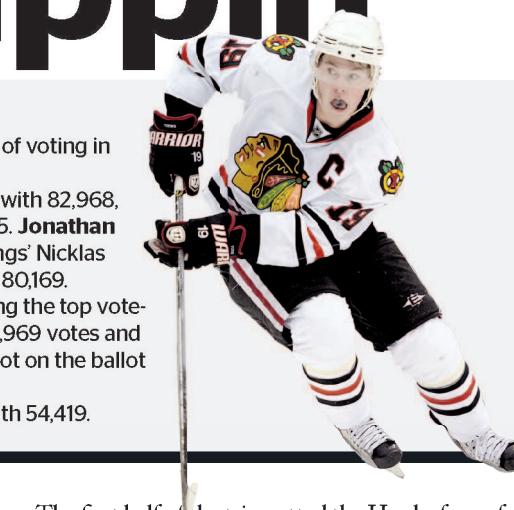
The Blackhawks are faring well during the first week of voting in the 2011 NHL All-Star Game fan balloting.

Defenseman Duncan Keith is second in the voting with 82,968, trailing only Penguins captain Sidney Crosby's 118,755. **Jonathan Toews** (right) is fifth with 79,953, behind the Red Wings' Nicklas Lidstrom (80,723) and the Capitals' Alex Ovechkin at 80,169.

The Hawks lead the league with nine players among the top vote-getters. Patrick Kane is fifth among forwards with 63,969 votes and Marian Hossa is eighth with 57,324. Patrick Sharp is not on the ballot but has drawn 23,522 write-in votes.

Among defensemen, Brent Seabrook is seventh with 54,419.

"Every game was different," Hawks coach Joel Quenneville said Tuesday after practice at HP Pavilion. "We were very happy with the way we started and very happy the way it ended and very disappointed in the middle. The way we played in Vancouver [on Saturday] is something we want to get right back. That has to be our mindset and that has got to be our standard."



The first half of the trip netted the Hawks four of a possible six points and served as a learning experience.

"You can't take any game for granted," forward Patrick Sharp said. "I'm really proud of the group the way we battled back and had a great response in Vancouver. We can learn you can't look too far ahead and you have to focus on the game at hand. That starts [against the Sharks]."

» Yankees general manager Brian Cashman all but dared his captain to test free agency Tuesday, telling espn.com that the Yankees have made a "fair and appropriate" contract offer to Derek Jeter and suggested that if the 36-year-old thinks otherwise, he should shop himself around to find out.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- » Morgan St. 72, W. Illinois 53
- » S. Illinois 85, Charleston Southern 66
- » Illinois 73, Yale 47
- » Chicago St. at St. Mary's, late



Bars call Wednesday Black Wednesday because of all the debauchery. For the same reason, I call it blackout Wednesday. Here now, my picks. Let's see yours.

Bulls at Phoenix

8 p.m. CSN

1  **Bulls 92, Suns 87**  It's the second of a back-to-back, but the Suns are whack and hacks.

Blackhawks at San Jose

9:30 p.m. WGN

2  **Hawks 4, Sharks 2**  A rematch from the 2010 playoffs ends much the same way for these two.

Orlando vs. Miami

6:30 p.m. ESPN

3  **Magic 86, Heat 77**  Now surgeons and physical therapists are taking their talents to South Beach. Heat are hurting.

txtable

To challenge Whizzer, go to redeyechicago.com/whizzer or text "whiz" followed by your picks to 87708. Don't forget your name.

metromix

IN IT TO WIN IT

Experienced Black Wednesday partiers hit the bars without getting hit with hangovers

By Leonor Vivanco

REDEYE

You know the drill. No work on Thanksgiving, so you might as well booze it up the night before, right?

Much like Black Friday, when shoppers rush to stores, Chicago bargoers flock to their neighborhood hangouts on Black Wednesday to reunite, catch up and drink with friends who are in town for the holiday. It's a mini-reunion of sorts.

But make no mistake. Black Wednesday isn't for amateurs—and it takes know-how to make it through the night without completely derailing your plans for the next day with a hangover.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving ranks among the top unofficial drinking holidays with bar crawls and drink specials galore from the Turkey Trolley Trot at six Lakeview bars to Wild Turkey Thanksgiving Eve at O'Donovans in North Center, among others.

Expert drinkers know how to survive a long night of boozing without being a buzz kill during the drinking holiday or feeling too horrible on Thanksgiving.

"It is a rare opportunity to get to go out on a Wednesday night. I think it's a lot of fun to go out during the week, but you often pay the price at work," said Rob Popowcer, 31, who lives in River North.

He doesn't go out much during the week but makes an exception on Black Wednesday.

"Now, you can just enjoy the hangover over some turkey, mashed potatoes and green bean casserole."

Thanksgiving Eve partiers usually aren't allowed to sleep off their hangovers. Instead they're forced to be semi-aware, shuttling to relatives' homes and helping in the kitchen with the Thanksgiving feast.

In order to be on the top of their game Thursday, Wednesday partiers follow certain guidelines.

Noah Pinzur learned his lesson six years ago when he had an atomic hangover on Thanksgiving. He broke up with his girlfriend on Black Wednesday and partied

Where does Black Wednesday rank?

By Leonor Vivanco

REDEYE

Black Wednesday has emerged as a big night out across Chicago. But it hasn't reached the title of top unofficial drinking holiday.

"St. Party's Day is king in Chicago. Nothing beats that," said Durkin's general manager Joe Magoonaugh, drawing on his experience working at Chicago bars.

"After that, as far as drinking holidays, my preference I would say New Year's would be next and then Halloween and then Black Wednesday after that." Other biggies are Cinco de

Mayo and Fat Tuesday.

But Black Wednesday is more chill than the others, said Violeta Koleva, office manager for the Four Corners Tavern Group, which owns eight bars including Schoolyard Tavern and West End. In the past few years, Koleva said, more people have headed to neighborhood bars to celebrate the holiday with cocktails.

"A lot of young people leave town early on Wednesday and the ones that stay in town definitely will go out to celebrate the eve of Thanksgiving, but they want it to be easy, [relaxed] and unpretentious," she said in an e-mail.

Where to hit it tonight

By Samantha Nelson

FOR METROMIX

Looking to party Wednesday? You're in good company. These spots are ready to help you jump-start your long weekend.

SAMANTHA NELSON IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

TAKE THE TROLLEY

Various locations

773-868-8073

8-11 p.m. \$20
Start Bar 1 Events' annual Turkey Trolley

Trot at any of six locations: Maeve (1325 W. Wrightwood Ave.), McGee's (950 W. Webster Ave.), Durkin's (810 W. Diversey Pkwy.), Duffy's (420 1/2 W. Diversey Pkwy.), Wrightwood Tap (1059 W. Wrightwood Ave.) or Redmond's (3358 N. Sheffield Ave.). The pub crawl includes transportation between bars, domestic drafts and a buffet at each stop.

MORE ONLINE!

Browse more Black Wednesday bashes online at chicago.metromix.com/blackwed.

"It is a rare opportunity to get to go out on a Wednesday night. I think it's a lot of fun to go out during the week, but you often pay the price at work."

ROB POPOWCR, 31, RIVER NORTH

hard. He downed Captain Morgan and Diet Cokes all night. And his body hated him for it. He got so sick that he popped blood vessels in his eyes, he said.

The next day he dragged himself to his parents' house in Highland Park toting a Gatorade in one hand and a bag of McDonald's food in the other. He was bummed about his subpar food-scarfing perfor-

mance and could eat very little of the feast that Thanksgiving.

"I'm just much more cautious. I don't go crazy like I used to," said Pinzur, now 31, who lives in Lincoln Park.

Now he paces himself and sticks to vodka sodas because the soda water keeps him hydrated, which he swears by for less of a chance of having a hangover. He takes wa-

ter breaks if necessary when he goes out to bars the night before the holiday. His hangover-free technique seems to work, he says, because he said he's rarely hung over in the morning—a little groggy but no pounding headache or stomachache.

In addition to pacing yourself, nibble on food before going out, said Joe Magoonaugh, Durkin's general manager. "You don't want



MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

Rockit Bar & Grill

22 W. Hubbard St. 312-645-6000 | 7-11 p.m. \$10

Mayflower madness descends on four River North bars during the third annual **Metromix/RedEye Black Wednesday Pilgrimage**. The crawl starts at Rockit and moves on to Dos Diablos, O'Callaghan's and Blue Frog 22 and includes pilgrim-style T-shirts, turkey legs and drink deals at each stop.

to have a huge meal and then you're stuffed and don't want to drink. A solid base is always good," he said. And stay hydrated. "A nice big glass of water before you go to bed will always help with the hangover in the morning," he said.

But if bargoers end up with a massive hangover, Bill Carlson swears by pounding an energy drink in the morning.

"It gets rid of the drowsiness. You might still have a headache, but at least you're energetic and functioning at Thanksgiving rather than sleeping on the couch," said Carlson, 23.

Among his other tips: popping a couple of Advils and hitting up a fast-food joint for some greasy grub. Carlson plans on stopping by bars in Lincoln Park or downtown when on break from grad school at the University

of Illinois and back home in La Grange.

"That Wednesday is one of those nights where you drink a little bit of everything. Usually it's inevitable that you're hung over on Thanksgiving," he said. "You can try and say no shots, but it doesn't usually turn out that way," he said. He stays away from mixing too much and drinking any sugary cocktail concoction.

After his horrible Thanksgiving eve experience in 2004, Pinzur said he doesn't want anything to get in the way of enjoying his favorite holiday.

"It's just hanging out with your family. It's fun. There's football games going on, good food," he said. "It's a definition of gluttony where you sit down and do nothing all day."

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM

DANCE AND DRINK

8 Fifty 8

858 W. Lake St. 312-455-2776
9 p.m. \$20; no cover before 11 p.m. with RSVP at 8fifty8.com
Shake it to beats from New York's DJ Equal at this new-to-the-scene West Loop club. Arrive early for a hosted cocktail reception from 9-10 p.m.



GLOW IN THE DARK

Casey Moran's

3660 N. Clark St. 773-755-4444

8 p.m. No cover
The Wrigleyville Irish pub revives that trusty college staple, the black light party. Staff will hand out white T-shirts so you can make your mark on fellow dancers working the floor. An optional \$35 package from 8-11 p.m. includes well drinks, domestic bottles, wine and a Thanksgiving-style buffet.

GO GOTH

Parlour on Clark

6341 N. Clark St. 773-564-9274
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
No cover
Get in touch with your dark side as DJ Erik Roldan spins Top 40 and house music while gothic go-go dancers perform at Edgewater's new LGBT pub. Drink specials include \$4 well drinks and \$2 PBRs.

PARTY WITH PAULY

Aragon Ballroom

1106 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-561-9500

8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$23
"Jersey Shore" product DJ Pauly D (and his well-gelled hair) hits Aragon Ballroom to spin along with four other DJs. Truly obsessed fans can shell out an extra \$95 for a meet-and-greet session, autographed poster and photo op with Pauly.



SHOW OFF YOUR SINGING

Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar

960 W. 31st St. 773-890-0588

9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover
Rock out with **YouTube video karaoke** at this Bridgeport liquor store-bar hybrid. Search for a song and perform along with custom music videos. Need some liquid courage before you take the stage? The whole cocktail menu is \$1 off.



SOUTH LOOP SIPPING

Jimmy Green's Bar & Grill

825 S. State St. 312-386-9000

7:11:30 p.m. No cover
This 8-month-old sports bar kept party details so quiet that even bartenders didn't get the skinny prior to the bash. The secret? The bar debuts a house brew—Jimmy Green's South Loop lager—made by local custom beer maker Argus Brewery. Jimmy's is an official Bulls and Blackhawks bar, meaning you can watch both games while you sip.



TONIGHT

SPECIAL LIVE PERFORMANCE BY

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RANDOM ACTS OF GREATNESS

5 THINGS WE'RE LOVING THIS WEEK



1 **Bubble and squeak** (\$5), a traditional English side made from mashed potatoes and leftover veggies at Owen and Engine (2700 N. Western Ave.). The dish is comfort food at its finest—a buttery and flavorful combo of fresh-cut turnips, savory cabbage, onions and mashed Yukon potatoes are pan-fried to develop a golden crust. —TRAN HA

2 **Delivery from Nano Sushi** (4256 N. Western Ave.). Nano includes a free order of crab rangoon, California maki, egg rolls or edamame with a \$20 delivery order. —DANA KAVAN

3 **Super-nice bartenders and servers** at Weather Mark Tavern (1503 S. Michigan Ave.), the South Loop's trusty nautically-themed bar. —LISA ARNETT

4 Surprisingly delicious **chicken sandwich** (\$6.95) at new Brazilian counter-serve spot Sabor Express (1230 W. Taylor St.) in Little Italy. We'd pass up the impressive lineup of hit-or-miss skewers for this sandwich of juicy chicken topped with—score—a fried egg. —LISA BALDE

5 **Roasted organic beet ravioli** (\$8) at Trattoria No. 10 (10 N. Dearborn St.). A tasty twist on the restaurant's specialty dishes, sliced beets replace pasta to create a ravioli filled with ricotta and goat cheese. —LINDA HAYS

JOIN THE RANDOMNESS!

What are you loving this week? Log onto metromix.com to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

► WEDNESDAY CHEAP SHOTS

BECKETT'S
\$3 Jameson shots;
3210 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-880-9620.

108 W. Kinzie St. Lower
level. Enter through
Mercadito.
312-329-2444.

**THE GRAND
CENTRAL**
\$3 shots;
950 W. Wrightwood
Ave. 773-832-4000.

1638 W. Belmont Ave.
773-828-5055.

RED LINE TAP
\$1 select shots;
7006 N. Glenwood
Ave. 773-274-5463.

**BUTTERFLY
SOCIAL CLUB**
\$4 for a draft beer and
a shot; 722 W. Grand
Ave. 312-666-1695.

DURKIN'S
\$4 select Three Olives
flavors shots;
810 W. Diversey Pkwy.
773-525-2515.

**LOGAN
BAR AND GRILL**
\$3 specialty shots;
2230 N. California Ave.
773-252-1110.

ROCKS LAKEVIEW
\$5 select whiskey
shots; 3463 N. Broad-
way. 773-472-0493.

**CROSSROADS
PUBLIC HOUSE**
\$3 SoCo Lime shots;
2630 N. Clark St.
773-248-3900.

FAT CAT
\$3 Wild Turkey shots;
4840 N. Broadway.
773-506-3100.

NICK'S ON WILSON
\$2 infusion shots;
1140 W. Wilson Ave.
773-271-1155.

**SHENANIGANS
HOUSE OF BEER**
\$5 Jager shots;
16 W. Division St.
312-642-2344.

DELILAH'S
\$2 Old Crow shots;
2771 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-472-2771.

FEDORA LOUNGE
\$3 Jim Beam shots;
712 N. Clark St.
312-624-9008.

O'DONOVAN'S
\$3 Wild Turkey shots;
2100 W. Irving Park Rd.
773-478-2100.

SIMONE'S BAR
\$5 for a shot of
Jameson and a PBR;
960 W. 18th St.
312-666-8601.

DIVISION ALE HOUSE
\$3 Black Shots (vodka
and Chambord) in test
tubes; 1942 W. Division
St. 773-384-6886.

THE FIFTY/50
\$3 Jose Cuervo Silver
shots; 2047 W. Division
St. 773-489-5050.

PARAMOUNT ROOM
\$3 house shots,
\$5 shot and a beer;
415 N. Milwaukee Ave.
312-829-6300.

TOONS
\$4 pineapple
vodka shots;
3857 N. Southport Ave.
773-935-1919.

DOUBLE A
\$3 Averna shots;

GRACE STREET TAP
\$2 select shots;
3759 N. Western Ave.
773-463-7120.

THE PONY
\$3 SoCo Lime shots;



UNDERGROUND

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
THANKSGIVING EVE

A NIGHT OF GIVING THANKS WITH CELEBRITY DJ COBRA

PARTY FROM 9PM - 4AM | RSVP: VIP@ROCKITRANCH.COM
56 W. ILLINOIS | CHICAGO | 312.943.7600 | THEUNDERGROUNDCHICAGO.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/THEUNDERGROUNDCHICAGO | TWITTER.COM/UNDERGROUNDCHI

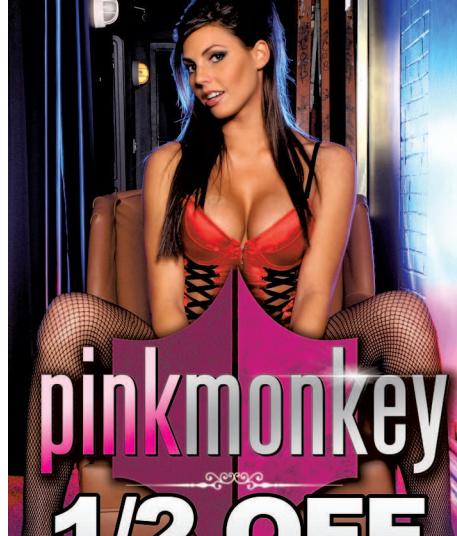
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HAWKS
AT
SHARKS

TONIGHT 9:30PM
WGN SPORTS
HD

2010 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

BAR-GUMENTS

SETTLING AGE-OLD, BAR-BASED DISAGREEMENTS ONE ARGUMENT AT A TIME

What is a bar-gument, you say? For as long as there have been watering holes, there have been disagreements. Some people prefer martinis with gin, some with vodka. Bar-guments is here to settle some longstanding bar conflicts once and for all.

This week: Are glass or aluminum bottles better for brew?

**VS****GLASS BOTTLES**

Beer in an aluminum container has a place in this world. It's called a can. Perfect for summer barbecues, pool parties, drinking while in motion (i.e. kickball, bowling, etc.) and crushing against your forehead to impress girls. Past that, it's just ridiculous. Why would anyone want to drink out of something that looks like Axe body spray and makes the beer taste like metal? Nope. If you're going to drink out of a bottle, stick with glass and make your bar swords the old-fashioned way. —MIKE RICH

**ALUMINUM BOTTLES**

I love our planet almost as much as I love beer, which is why I opt for aluminum anytime I have a choice. Pour the suds into a glass and it tastes the same—or even better if it comes from aluminum, which protects the beer from light that can mess with beer's flavor. Factor in that aluminum is easier to recycle and lighter to haul, and it's clearly the green choice for beer lovers. Why don't we celebrate this fact over a frosty brew out of an aluminum bottle? —MIKE HINES

**WINNER!**

YES
62%

BAR-GUMENT RESULTS:

Is it OK for guys to drink girly drinks?

NO
38%

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DINING DEALS AND EVENTS THROUGH SUNDAY

* = THIS WEEK ONLY

AI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Wed.: \$5 select martinis; 5 p.m. Sun.: \$31.95 all-you-can-eat menu. Includes sushi, nigiri and entrees; 358 W. Ontario St. 312-335-9888.

BRANCH 27

Wed.: Stew and Brew. \$15 for Brazilian stew and a beer; 1371 W. Chicago Ave. 312-850-2700.

CHICAGO JOE'S

Wed.: \$2.75 Bud Light bottles and half-price bottles of wine; Fri.: \$5 martinis; Sat.: \$3 Guinness drafts; Sun.: \$4 bloody marys; 2256 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-478-7000.

FEAST

Wed.: \$25 prix-fixe menu with one glass of wine; 1616 N. Damen Ave. 773-772-7100.

FIRESIDE RESTAURANT

Wed.: Half-price appetizers in the lounge, \$3.50 Blue Moon drafts; Wed., Fri.-Sun.: \$2.50 PBR drafts, \$4 draft of the month; 5739 N. Ravenswood Ave. 773-561-7433.

FRASCA PIZZERIA AND WINE BAR

Wed.: Buy-one-get-one pizzas; Sun.: \$3 draft beers; 3358 N. Paulina St. 773-248-5222.

HB HOME BISTRO

Wed.: \$30 three-course

Last-minute gobble

Need Turkey Day reservations? Head to metromix.com for restaurants with seats still available for the big day.

dinner; 3404 N. Halsted St. 773-661-0299.

HEARTY

Wed.: \$1 garlic sliders, \$3 house-cut fries, \$4 truffle tots, \$6 for a pound of bacon. Dine in only; 3819 N. Broadway. 773-868-9866.

KINZIE STREET CHOPHOUSE

4-6 p.m. Wed., Fri.: Free select appetizers in the bar with drink purchase; Sun.: Half-price bottles of wine; 400 N. Wells St. 312-822-0191.

LOKAL

Wed.: Pierogis After Dark. \$5 martinis, \$10 all-you-can-eat pierogis (10 p.m.-12 a.m.). Selections include truffle, duck confit, butternut squash, pumpkin, potato, sweet and sour cabbage, sweet potato, mushroom, barbecue-braised pork and beef; Sun.: \$5 signature cocktails, complimentary small plate

with purchase of two entrees; 1904 W. North Ave. 773-904-8113.

MARIGOLD INDIAN RESTAURANT

Wed.: \$15 select bottles of wine, \$25 three-course dinner (5:30 p.m.); 4832 N. Broadway. 773-293-4653.

* MERCADITO

5 p.m. Wed.: Black Wednesday at Mercadito. Get \$3 Averna shots; 108 W. Kinzie St. 312-329-9555.

* QUARTINO

7 p.m. Wed.: Monthly Wine Bash. Sample sparkling wines and roses paired with dishes from executive chef John Coletta's cookbook, "250 True Italian Pasta Dishes," to celebrate the book's one-year anniversary. Take home a signed copy of the book for \$24.95. \$20; 626 N. State St. 312-698-5000.



DINING PICK OF THE WEEK

Thanksgiving at Chief O'Neill's Pub

Still looking for a Turkey Day dinner? You can make last-minute reservations for a four-course feast that includes your choice of soup, salad, entree and dessert. Dinner options include a traditional roasted turkey, bone-in prime rib, rosemary roasted leg of lamb or vegetarian stuffed acorn squash. \$29.95, \$12.95 for kids 3-12, free for kids under 3. Seatings at 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 6 and 7 p.m. Thursday. 3471 N. Elston Ave. 773-473-5263.



Chief O'Neill's
METROMIX FILE

ROCCO RANALLI'S

Wed.: Half-price bottles of wine, free appetizer with purchase of two entrees; Fri.: \$2 Old Style drafts, \$3 Jameson shots, \$1 chips and salsa, \$4 bruschetta, \$5 cheese quesadillas; Sat.: \$6 domestic pitchers, \$10 premium pitchers, \$2.99 popcorn shrimp

appetizer; Sun.: \$2 Miller Lite bottles, \$5 bloody marys, \$4.95 any sandwich with fries; 1925 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-280-8077.

SOLA

Wed.: \$30 three-course menu. Add \$15 for wine pairing; 3868 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-327-3868.

SWEETS & SAVORIES

Wed.: \$10 Kobe burgers; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun.: \$14 brunch; 1534 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-281-6778.

TAKASHI RESTAURANT

Wed.: \$36 four-course prix-fixe meal; Sun.: \$7-\$8 appetizers, \$12-\$13 select noodle menu;

1952 N. Damen Ave. 773-772-6170.

TAPAS VALENCIA

Wed.: \$5 mojitos, margaritas and Absolut martinis; 4-6:30 p.m. Wed., Fri., 5-6:30 p.m. Sat., 9:30-11 p.m. Fri.-Sat.: \$2 select hot and cold tapas at the bar; 1530 S. State St. 312-842-4444.

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THIS WEEK'S TOP 5 LIVE SHOWS

1. Mavis Staples
7 p.m. Sat. at Park West
A true hometown legend.

2. Syl Johnson
8 p.m. Sat. at Old Town School of Folk Music
The best soul artist you've never heard?

3. Gold Motel
7:30 p.m. Sat. at Subterranean
Don't tell these locals it's not summer.

4. Stornoway
8 p.m. Sun. at Schubas
Pretty music from English group that could soar.

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SEE
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Former Metromix Rock 'n' Vote winners hit the big time with chiptune-powered pop

If Fred Savage's video game-obsessed character in the 1989 film "The Wizard" had grown up and started a band, it might sound something like Chicago's I Fight Dragons.

Blending power pop and chiptune—a genre of beats created using vintage video game sound cards—the 2-year-old crew crafts melodic tunes that sound something like Fall Out Boy rocking out in King Koopa's realm. Reached by phone at his home in Evanston before the group's release show at Metro for new EP "Welcome to the Breakdown," 26-year-old founder and Glenview native Brian Mazzaferrri discussed his early obsession with video games, how signing to a major label has altered his control-freak tendencies (the band inked with Atlantic/Photo Finish in February) and what it meant to win Metromix's local band contest Rock 'n' Vote in 2009.

It's been about a year and a half since you won Metromix Rock 'n' Vote. Are you going to remember us when you give that first Grammy speech?

[Laughs.] Definitely. "And to the Rock 'n' Vote voters, this is what your text message bought you." It's funny to say that, but that was a really big milestone for us in our first year together as a band. When people were trying to start our Wikipedia page in 2009 and other people were trying to stop them, that was one of the rallying cries. Should these people even have a Wikipedia page? One of the big arguments by the people that said we should was that we had won this contest.

Did you grow up playing video games?

Yes. When I was a baby, my dad sat me in front of the Atari and just left me to play with it. But I was a kid and I didn't understand what I was supposed to do, so I ended up chewing on the controller. He took it away for a year or two until I could understand what was going on.

Was there a particular game soundtrack that inspired this musical direction?

Before I Fight Dragons, I was more of an acoustic singer-songwriter. I was

working on some songs, and kind of on a whim I was like, "What if the intro sounded like it was a Nintendo version of the song?" [Bandmate] Bill [Prokopow] and I went and played a bunch of "Super Mario Brothers 3," listened to the actual sounds being made and mocked it up. Then I did some research and discovered there was this whole scene with people specifically making chiptune.

Did you ever have any concerns about copyright infringement?

Well, even from the beginning we were very conscious [about copyright]

PERSONALITY TEST

BRIAN MAZZAFERRI

What's the last album you bought?
Weezer: "Hurley"

Song you've listened to on repeat recently? "I think the last time I listened to a song all day it was 'Fireflies' by Owl City."

Best concert you've seen in the last year? AFI "We did a show with them in Denver last December where they just tore it up. It was really something else."

New band you don't know personally that deserves to be big? Jukebox the Ghost.
"I've been to a couple shows and they're just great."

infringement]. We don't use samples. There are no melodies taken from pre-existing works. All of the chiptune we do is composed by us. The main tool we use these days is my original Game Boy. There's a program called Little Sound DJ that basically lets you use your Game Boy as sequencer and synthesizer. That's how I program most of our chiptune.

You mentioned being a bit of a control freak. With the label assisting with things like the band's e-mail list, which you used to manage, have you had to find other outlets for those tendencies?

It was always really tough maintaining a balance between making music and handling the business part. During that first year especially, the business part often won. I'm still involved on that end, but I'm not spending all my time on it. On the other hand, we need tons and tons of new songs. And not only new songs, but the best songs we've ever written. I've written over 50 songs for the album. That's where the control-freak thing has come out.

Where are you in terms of the full-length album?

Really close in terms of writing. We're 95 percent of the way there with the songs. Hopefully we'll be recording right after the holidays. Optimistically, we'd like to have it out in the spring, but probably no later than summer.

Give me the plot synopsis for "I Fight Dragons: The Video Game."

[Laughs.] Yes! I suppose it would be [five] early cyborgs that were deposited on Earth and implanted with human back stories in order to conquer the evil, anti-art masses of the larger music industry and to release their shining power pop on the world.

ANDY DOWNING IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
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New releases



My Chemical Romance

"Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys"

Reprise/Sire
On 2006's "The Black Parade,"

the New Jersey quartet reinvented itself as a screamo Queen, cramming everything from marching bands to a guest spot from Liza Minnelli(!) into its widescreen anthems for the broken, the beaten and the damned. This time around, frontman Gerard Way and Co. spend a bulk of their time stripping the music down to its dirty, raw essentials.

Glam-metal cuts like "Bulletproof Heart," "Vampire Money" and the awesomely titled "Na Na Na (Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na)" layer on slash-and-burn guitars, thundering drums and Way's bratty vocals. "I'd rather go to hell than be in purgatory," he sneers on the latter. "Let this world explode!" The singer, who recently dyed his hair fire-engine red to match the outlandish persona he channels on record, remains magnetic throughout. Whether questioning his own fragile grasp on humanity ("Terrified of what I'd be," he sings on "Summertime") or lashing out at the rock-star lifestyle ("Keep your cars and your drugs and your famous friends," he howls on the rumbling "Party Poison"), the eerily charismatic frontman makes it impossible to turn away.

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The Good, Saturday, Feb. 5 (\$12, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Hemmingbirds, The Great Life, Property of Saints, Tuesday, Jan. 11 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Kevin O'Donnell's Epiphany Spectacular, Wednesday, Jan. 5 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Little Boy Jr., Weather Underground, Thursday, Dec. 23 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

On Your Marx, Thursday, Dec. 16 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

**ON SALE
NOON FRIDAY**

Justin Townes Earle, Jessica Lea Mayfield, Thursday, Feb. 10 (\$16, 18+) at Metro.

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS**BALLISTER**

9:30 p.m. \$6. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

BROOKE FRASER, SAM BRADLEY

9 p.m. \$15. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

CAVO, AMERICAN BANG, SHAMAN'S HARVEST

9 p.m. \$15. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

CHATTY CATHY, MAYOR FOR LIFE, FLESHBROKER, DJ MAVE MATA

9:30 p.m. \$4-\$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

CHIMAIRA, IMPENDING DOOM, DAATH, THIS OR THE APOCALYPSE

5 p.m. \$15-\$18. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

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9 p.m. Free. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

**ON SALE
11 A.M. SATURDAY**

Pieta Brown, Saturday, Jan. 8 (\$12-\$15, all ages) at Space.

Antje Duvekot, Saturday, Feb. 19 (\$12-\$15, all ages) at Space.

The Flatlanders, Thursday, Jan. 20 (\$30-\$35, all ages) at Space.

Shelby Lynne, Tuesday, Feb. 1 (\$27-\$30, all ages) at Space.

Mike Mangione and the Union, Wednesday, Feb. 23 (\$10-\$14, all ages) at Space.

Nellie McKay, Thursday, Jan. 27 (\$17-\$20, all ages) at Space.

The Nadas, Friday, Jan. 28 (\$12-\$15, all ages) at Space.

**Robyn****ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY**

Friday, Feb. 11 (\$25, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

**BBU****REBEL DIAZ, SCHEME, I'NARU', DJ GAME OVER, DJ OZONE**

8 p.m. \$12-\$15. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

EMPIRES, KING SPARROW, REPUBLIC OF LIGHTS

9 p.m. \$10. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

JOSHUA RADIN, GOOD OLD WAR

6:30 p.m. \$22.50. Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-472-0449.

MR. BLOTO, KIDS THESE DAYS, JAIK WILLIS

7 p.m. \$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

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9 p.m. \$8-\$10. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

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10:30 p.m. \$20. The Shrine, 2109 S. Wabash

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9 p.m. \$14. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

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Elf esteem

**Mitchell Fain talks
Sedaris' 'Santaland
Diaries,' sweaty tights
and the holidays**

By Julia Borcherts

Portraying a department store Christmas elf in the thick of the holiday season may seem like a bit of a departure for an actor with roots in Shakespeare productions, but it's not unfamiliar territory for Mitchell Fain. Boldly going where others may fear to tread, Fain, 44, also has portrayed a dying Dalmatian, three dead gay poets, a petulant dictator and a killer cheerleader. The Rhode Island native danced naked onstage at the Dance Chicago festival and most recently performed with The Second City Touring Company on a cruise ship. At age 30, he learned acrobatics to become an ensemble member with The Midnight Circus, and these days Fain co-hosts the Windy City Queercast in his spare time.

Now Fain dons a pair of striped tights to star in Theater Wit's "The Santaland Diaries," David Sedaris' humorous solo show about failed attempts to maintain dignity while working as a department store Christmas elf named Crumpet. We called Fain during re-

hearsals to catch up.

How does playing Crumpet affect your view of the holidays?

I was raised Jewish [laughs] in a very Catholic town, so I got to enjoy Christmas from the outside. I'm actually very un-cynical about the season because no one expects me to be anywhere. Like a good Jew, I go to a Chinese restaurant and I go see a movie in the afternoon. And if there's a Barbra Streisand movie opening, that's like double-Christmas.

[Performing in "Santaland"] gives me a purpose during the holidays. It can be a cynical show, but there's nothing better than making people laugh.

Where do you buy Crumpet's tights?

The costume designer orders them online from, like, Tights 'R Us. [Laughs.] That's not what it's called, but it's something like that where they specialize in wacky tights. I always have to have four or five pair because a. it's a little sweaty, and b. I tend to put runs in them, because you know, being a boy, I haven't learned how to put them on gracefully. [Laughs.]

What's the worst real-life job you've ever had?

I always joke that I'm the only actor I know who's never waited tables. I've actually been

really lucky with the side jobs. But when I first moved to Chicago, I got a job doing telemarketing. They train me for about half an hour, I take two calls and then I say to the manager, "Hey, listen, I'm just going to grab a quick cigarette and come back in." And I never came back. [Laughs.]

You've been able to give up the side jobs. What makes Chicago such a good place for actors?

In other cities, like New York, it's so expensive that you're working a million hours a week just to pay for your apartment, and it's hard to have the space and freedom to explore and take classes. In Chicago, it's easier to live as an artist. People in Chicago go to see local theater and dance and music. It feels like a community here.

What's up next for you?

I close "Santaland" on New Year's Eve, and then the next morning, I fly to Kentucky to do a "Best of Second City" show at the Actors Theater of Louisville for a month. The director is the guru, the master here in Chicago: Mick Napier from The Annoyance Theater. I'm really, really excited about it.

INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED.

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Comeback tour

Christina Aguilera hopes 'Burlesque' jaunt boosts sagging career after rough year

Los Angeles Times

A few paparazzi were loitering on the hot concrete outside Chelsea Handler's talk show studio in West L.A. last week, waiting for Christina Aguilera to emerge so they could take her picture. But they weren't sure their idling would pay off.

"Her walking with a coffee cup is basically worth nothing," said Bobby Rachpoot, a photographer for Bauer Griffin. "Unless she is with a new boyfriend. That would be like \$100,000."

In the wake of a tough year, it seems Aguilera's stock has plummeted. More than a decade ago, she became one of the biggest names in pop music and since has sold more than 16 million albums in the U.S. and won five Grammy awards. But the 29-year-old's fourth English-language studio album, "Bionic," debuted in June to mixed reviews. And last month, Aguilera filed for divorce from her husband of five years, music producer Jordan Bratman, with whom she has a 2-year-old son.

Now, though, Hollywood is giving Aguilera a chance to be the comeback kid. She makes her acting debut in "Burlesque," opening Wednesday. If the PG-13 musical in which she stars opposite Oscar winner Cher hits big, it could catapult her the way "The Bodyguard" did Whitney Houston. But if it flops, a la Mariah Carey's disastrous 2001 turn in "Glitter," it may further tarnish her once-flourishing career.

In the film, Aguilera plays Ali, a wide-eyed Midwest transplant with Hollywood dreams. When she arrives in L.A., she stumbles upon a

Sunset Strip burlesque club, where she is taken in by owner Tess (Cher) and becomes the star of a song-and-dance show. The movie is a custom-built showcase for the singer, with a handful of flashy musical numbers that play to her strengths—wailing atop a stage while executing taxing choreography. Even her look in the film—bustiers, fake eyelashes and glittery eye shadow—mimics the costumes she sometimes dons in concert.

If Aguilera is worried about being taken seriously as an actress—or about any of the troubles in her life—she hides it well. The singer, who has been in the spotlight since she was cast on "The New Mickey Mouse Club" at age 12, knows how to present a calm countenance in the eye of a storm.

"With the transitions that are happening in my life, I just can't wait to look forward to the future—as an actress, as a mom, as a woman who has experienced so much at this point in her life," she said.

Aguilera puts on a good show, says Steven Antin, the writer-director of "Burlesque."

"She's guarded and hard to get to know at first. Not unfriendly, just guarded," he said. "She's been doing this for a long time, so you need to earn it with her."

Before Antin's script came her way, Aguilera had been only casually pursuing the idea of taking on a film role.

"It was nothing that I was every night passionately reading scripts and going through them and sweating about it," she

said. "I would read them and usually just nothing sparked my attention enough."

Aguilera admitted to doubts about the career move. She was anxious about starring with the larger-than-life Cher, of course, but also worried about the basics of film: Should she hire an acting coach? Was it best to look directly into the camera while performing musical numbers?

"In approaching it, I was like, 'How do I do this? Do I memorize the whole thing at once? How is this possible? How do people do this all the time?'" she said, laughing at herself.

Pop stars don't have the best track records on the silver screen. Most famously, there was Carey's bomb "Glitter," followed by another ill-advised turn in "Tennessee." Britney Spears had her acting debut (and swan song) with the forgettable 2002 road trip movie "Crossroads."

"You've heard a lot of horror stories," Aguilera acknowledged. "And a lot of people don't make successful crossovers. That's why I think I also just really took my time in choosing the right thing and not just saying, 'Hey, let me try this just to do it and say I did it.' If you don't, I think the work would suffer and then you'd get written off as just another one trying to do something they can't do."

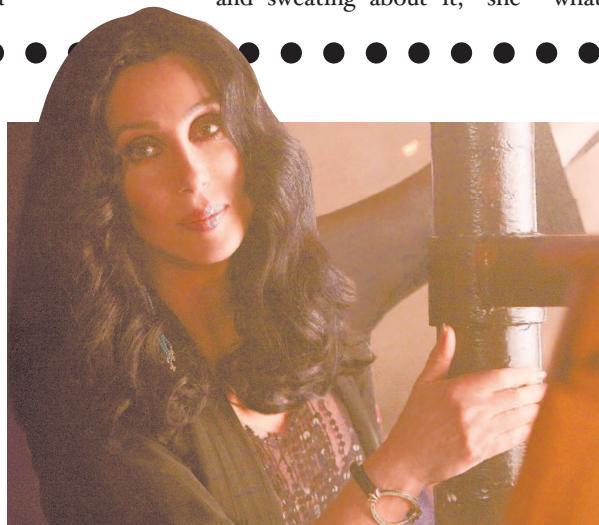
As for future film plans, she said "Burlesque" gave her the acting bug but admits she struggles reading scripts.

"My attention span is very short for getting through them," she said with a sigh, "so I do what I can."



BUT CAN THEY ACT?

"Burlesque," opening Wednesday with the dynamic duo of Cher and Christina Aguilera, enters a hallowed tradition: the making of the pop idol into the movie star. OK, "star" isn't always the case, but Aguilera should take comfort from history: It isn't all that bleak. Here are a few who have come before her. NEWSDAY



THE GOOD

Cher

There were many singers-to-actors before her, but let's start with Cher (left), who got an Oscar nomination for her first substantial film role ("Silkwood") and was chosen as best actress three years later for "Moonstruck" (1987). Bang bang, she shot her critics down. SCREEN GEMS PHOTO

Rappers

The most successful pop-screen transitions have been by people now so successful on screen that the public has almost forgotten they were musicians to begin with—Will Smith, say, or Queen Latifah. Mark Wahlberg has done well for himself (in "The Departed," if not "The Happening"). Erstwhile rapper Ice-T, who now spends his time huffing and puffing around "Law & Order: SVU," delivered a startling series of performances in the early '90s ("New Jack City," "Ricochet," "Trespass") and immediately went from "rapper-actor" to "actor." LL Cool J. Mos Def. The hip-hop scene has been a fertile one for Hollywood.



Aguilera in 'Burlesque'
SCREEN GEMS

FAST PAISED
'Burlesque'
PG-13

Fresh off the bus from Iowa to L.A., Ali (Christina Aguilera) boasts a great body and an even better voice, so it's only a matter of time until the head honchos at the Burlesque Lounge (Cher, Peter Gallagher, Stanley Tucci) give her a chance. (No idea why Ali doesn't want a career as a professional singer.) Meanwhile, a real estate mogul (Eric Dane) tries to buy the club and Ali rooms with one of the club's bartenders, Jack (Cam Gigandet), whose fiance is 3,000 miles away and not coming back soon.

The verdict: Far too chatty, not enough catty. There aren't any strong personalities and not nearly enough dancing in "Burlesque," which underuses dancing pro Julianne Hough and wastes a lot of time with a diva played by Kristen Bell. What flashes of dance there are—sparsely sprinkled around a fourth-hand, exhaustingly obvious plot—get pushed to the side once the stage gives way to Ali's voice, which possesses absolutely no evidence of a mostly parentless childhood or, uh, a life spent being beautiful and talented. Only Tucci's better than OK; most of the performances are much worse, particularly a very out-of-practice Cher, whose big performance number features her sitting for a while and then standing up. "Black Swan" is the movie to see for people who want breathtaking dancing. The not-at-all-fun "Burlesque" is the one for people who wish Christina Aguilera music videos took more story advice from "Coyote Ugly."

MATT PAIS IS METROMIX MOVIES PRODUCER.



Justin Timberlake
He may have stunk up the place in "Alpha Dog," but the 'N Sync star is terrific as Napster founder Sean Parker in "The Social Network." He's also delivered laughs galore on **"Saturday Night Live"** (left) and has several more film projects lined up. NBC PHOTO



Madonna
Despite her rampaging success almost everywhere else, Madonna has remained the movies' Immortal Girl. The bad: "Body of Evidence," "Shanghai Surprise," "Swept Away." The good: "Who's That Girl" **"Dick Tracy,"** (left) "A League of Their Own." In between: "Evita"



Mariah Carey
No one will ever accuse Mariah Carey's vanity project, **"Glitter,"** (left) of being a success. But she redeemed herself with "Precious" last year. 20TH CENTURY FOX PHOTO

Pop starlets
They really need no further explanation: Britney Spears in "Crossroads;" Kelly Clarkson in "From Justin to Kelly;" all the Spice Girls in "Spice World;" Jennifer Lopez in "Enough."

THE BAD



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R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

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888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily &

- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 9:40, 11:20, 12:55, 2:45, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:55
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 1:05, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 10:00, 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:25
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 10:25, 4:25, 10:15
- **Morning Glory** (PG-13) 1:00, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- **Due Date** (R) 10:10, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
- **The Social Network** (PG-13) 1:20, 7:20
- **Megamind 3D** (PG) 11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Made in Dagenham** (R) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
- **Today's Special** (R) 1:55, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
- **Waiting for Superman** (PG) 2:00, 4:30
- **127 Hours** (R) 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30
- **Fair Game** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
- **The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest** (R) 1:30, 4:45, 8:10
- **Monsters** (R) 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:40

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **The Fighter** (R) Advance Tickets Available
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (PG) Advance Tickets Available
- **Tron: Legacy** (NR) Advance Tickets Available
- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- **Megamind 3D** (PG) 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
- **Faster** (R) 12:30, 1:15, 3:30, 6:00, 7:30, 8:45, 11:15
- **Tangled** (PG) 12:15, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 12:00, 12:45, 2:15, 4:35, 3:15, 4:00, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 7:40, 9:00, 9:40, 10:20, 11:00
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 12:10, 3:20, 6:50, 10:10
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 1:00, 7:50
- **Skyline** (PG-13) 4:15, 9:50
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 4:45, 10:30
- **Morning Glory** (PG-13) 2:30, 5:15, 8:15, 10:45
- **For Colored Girls** (R) 11:10
- **Due Date** (R) 1:30, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

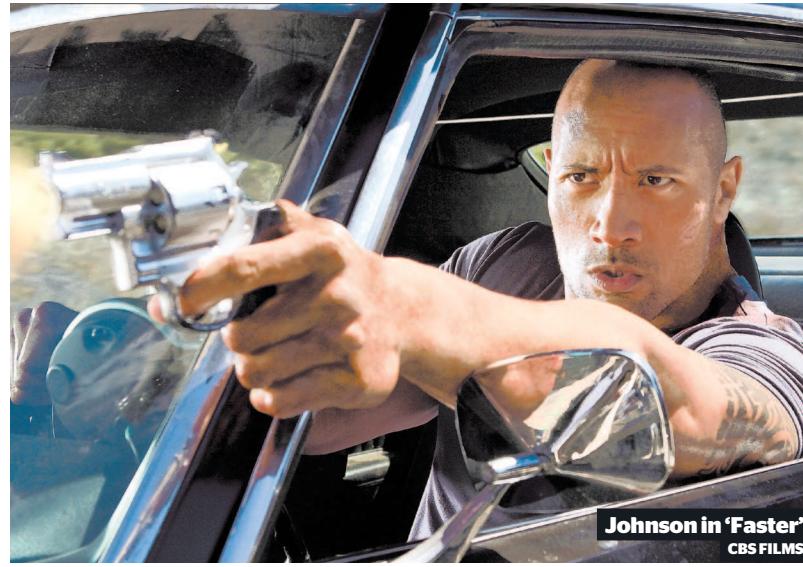
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
- **Tangled** (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 3:50, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **Faster** (R) 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:50

A surprising thrill ride

It's payback time for a seemingly invincible man known only as Driver (Dwayne Johnson) when he gets out of jail and immediately begins murdering the men responsible for killing his brother. On Driver's tail: a sleazy cop (Billy Bob Thornton), a respectable one (Carla Gugino) and a self-indulgent pretty boy (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) who's also an assassin-for-hire.

The buzz: Johnson may not go by "The Rock" anymore, but he's still built like Stonehenge and has learned the difference between looking angry and looking focused. It sure would be nice if director George Tillman Jr. ("Notorious") could deliver an action movie that's not just gloomy and ultra-violent like last year's Thanksgiving week revenge flick, "Ninja Assassin."

The verdict: Packed with unexpected stillness and a number of tough, adrenaline-boosting action sequences, "Faster" is cool and crisp where movies like "Salt" are just loud and dumb.



Johnson in 'Faster'
CBS FILMS

Yes, "Faster" lets Driver off a moral hook when he targets only hardened crooks, but the film, thankfully, is neither gratuitously violent nor out to find gleeful fun in murder. Contrived

or not, the criminals demonstrate a certain honor among thieves; when Driver comes calling, it's not reckless blood lust, just deadly karma coming back around.

EVEN FASTER PAISED

'Love and Other Drugs' R

Charming cad Jamie (Jake Gyllenhaal) happily expands his options for one-night stands when he becomes a Pfizer rep in late '90s Ohio -- especially once he hears about a new drug on the way called Viagra. Perhaps Jamie will calm his womanizing ways for Maggie (Anne Hathaway), a defensive pill trying to come to terms with her diagnosis of early onset Parkinson's Disease.

The verdict: If there's one thing the world doesn't need, it's more Viagra jokes -- or sexist depictions of professional women throwing away ethics in hopes of landing a man, whether for a night or longer.

» Pick up Friday's RedEye for interviews with Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal

'Tangled' PG

The only modern aspect to "Tangled" is the 3-D, which looks lovely.

'Welcome to the Rileys' R

This isn't a movie; it's acting practice.

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 10:05, 11:30, 1:20, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 10:00, 10:50
- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 10:55, 11:40, 1:15, 2:10, 3:30, 4:30, 6:10, 6:50, 8:30, 9:10
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 10:20, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 10:05
- **Megamind** (PG) 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
- **Skyline** (PG-13) 10:10, 10:30, 12:40, 1:05, 3:10, 3:35, 5:30, 6:05, 7:45, 8:40, 10:10
- **Due Date** (R) 11:30, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30
- **For Colored Girls** (R) 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:00
- **Paranormal Activity 2** (R) 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:05, 10:15
- **Saw: The Final Chapter** (R) 10:20, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
(312) 846-2800

- **Boxing Gym** (NR) 6:15, 8:00
- **The Damned** (NR) 8:00 P.M.
- **Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird** (G) 6:15 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Paranormal Activity 2** (R) 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:15
- **Red** (PG-13) 1:25, 3:35, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
- **The Town** (R) 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- **Inception** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **White Material** (NR) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- **Inside Job** (PG-13) 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

PIPER'S ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN

- **AMC Independent After the Break** (NR) 3:55, 7:05
- **AMC Independent Four Lions** (R) 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
- **AMC Independent Guzaarish** (NR) 2:00, 4:40, 7:25
- **AMC Independent You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger** (R) 1:25, 3:40, 5:50, 8:10

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: IMAX** (PG-13) 9:30, 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (PG) Advance Tickets Available
- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 11:00, 12:00, 2:30, 3:00, 20, 6:00, 7:00, 9:15, 10:10
- **Love & Other Drugs** (R) 11:10, 12:30, 1:45, 4:30, 6:10, 7:10, 10:00
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
- **Morning Glory** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
- **Megamind** (PG) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:10
- **Due Date** (R) 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 9:40, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 9:30, 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:10
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) 10:55, 1:45, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
- **Faster** (R) 10:35, 12:55, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30
- **Love & Other Drugs** (R) 10:05, 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
- **Tangled** (PG) 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:35, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 9:45, 11:00
- **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 10:50, 1:30, 4:25, 7:05, 9:55
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 10:00, 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
- **Skyline** (PG-13) 10:10, 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
- **Megamind** (PG) 11:10, 1:40, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10
- **Morning Glory** (PG-13) 10:40 A.M.
- **Due Date** (R) 10:15, 12:50, 3:15, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20
- **For Colored Girls** (R) 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

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- **Tangled 3D** (PG) ★ 1:20, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15
- **Burlesque** (PG-13) ★ 2:10, 4:40, 7:10
- **Faster** (R) ★ 12:50, 3:50, 6:20, 8:45, 11:20
- **Love & Other Drugs** (R) ★ 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

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popmovies



Rapunzel (Moore) and Flynn (Levi)

DISNEY

Things get hairy for 'Tangled' voice stars

Reuters

Disney Animation is famous for creating iconic royalty out of the characters in old fairy tales, but that didn't prevent Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi from taking roles in "Tangled."

The film, which opens Wednesday, reimagines the Brothers Grimm tale of the girl with the long golden hair who is locked away in a forest tower before a prince comes along and tries to spring her loose. Rapunzel (Moore) steps out of the tower to embark on her adventure with a handsome thief named Flynn Ryder (Zachary Levi).

Moore and Levi talk about "Tangled," their favorite childhood Disney movies and, of course, Rapunzel's long, long hair.

Mandy, did you feel pressure originating a Disney character that would stand alongside Snow White, Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty?

MM: To be the voice of a Disney princess in general, let alone for the 50th animated film, is an undertaking. [But] I didn't feel too

much pressure. I was excited to be the voice of Rapunzel and part of the rigmarole that comes with it.

Can you imagine if this was a live-action film and your hair was actually that long?

MM: [Laughs.] I would probably have perpetual neck pain! Seventy feet of hair has got to be quite heavy! But she uses it to her advantage most of the time.

ZL: Wow, I've never even thought about the weight. The sheer neck muscle ...

MM: She's got to have some core strength to drag all of that hair ...

ZL: Pilates, hello!

Mandy, you do all of your singing in the film, which is natural considering you've recorded six studio albums. Zach, you're known for your TV series "Chuck." Can you sing?

ZL: Mandy and I do a duet together. ["I See the Light."]

MM: Um, hello? The world needs to know that is Zach singing in the film. He is a ridiculously amazing singer!

Will Rapunzel be Disney's last princess?

Los Angeles Times

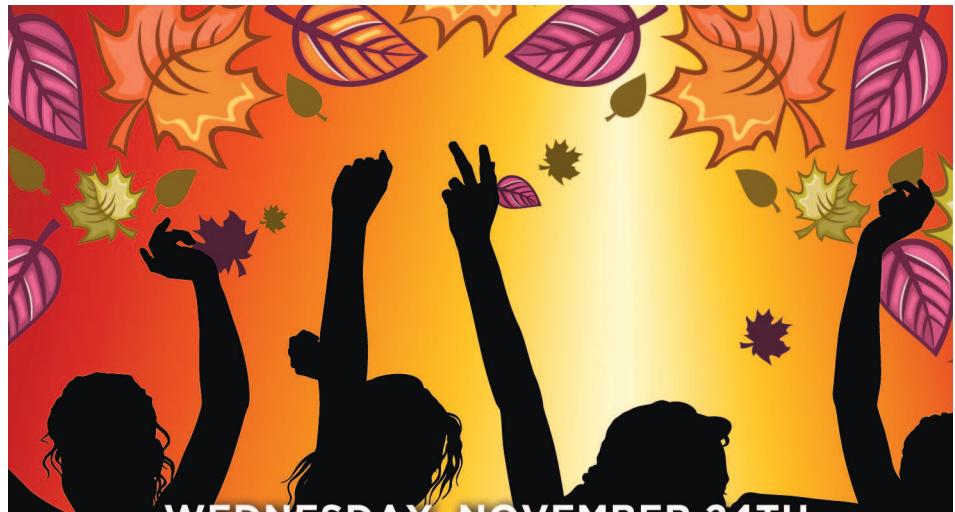
The curtain is falling on "princess movies," which have been a part of Disney Animation's heritage since the 1937 debut of its first feature film, "Snow White." The studio's release of "Tangled" will be the last fairy tale produced by Disney's animation group for the foreseeable future.

"Films and genres do run a course," said

Pixar Animation Studios chief Ed Catmull, who along with director John Lasseter oversees Disney Animation. "They may come back later because someone has a fresh take on it ... but we don't have any other musicals or fairy tales lined up."

Catmull and Lasseter killed two other fairy tale movies that had been in development, "The Snow Queen" and "Jack and the Beanstalk."

A promotional poster for a New Year's Eve (NYE) event at "The Underground" nightclub in Chicago. The poster features a black background with a grid of white triangles. In the center, the words "NYE 2011" are written in large, bold, yellow block letters. Above "NYE" is a white triangle logo with a black 'T' inside. Below "NYE" is the text "TICKETS NOW ON SALE". At the bottom, it says "FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 8 PM - 1 AM", "PREMIUM OPEN BAR & DINNER PACKAGE", "CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT", "GENERAL & VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE", "STARTING AT \$95 FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY", "ORDER ONLINE AT ROCKITRANCH.COM", "EMAIL CHRISTIE@THEUNDERGROUNDCHICAGO.COM", and "FOR MORE INFO". At the very bottom, it lists the address "56 W. ILLINOIS | CHICAGO | 312.943.7600 | THEUNDERGROUNDCHICAGO.COM", the Twitter handle "TWITTER.COM/UNDERGROUNDCHI", and the Facebook page "FACEBOOK.COM/THEUNDERGROUNDCHICAGO".



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Eligible participants must:

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Sweet wine flavors to tempt beginners



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It's that time of year, when we surround ourselves with family and friends to raise a glass and give thanks. For some, the beverage flavor of choice might not be wine.

My first taste of wine definitely was not a pleasurable experience. The label on the back of the wine bottle in my parents' refrigerator promised notes of apple, peaches and honey, yet the flavors I tasted were a symphony of bitter, sour and dry. Blech!

The restaurant where I worked at the time required all servers to attend extensive wine training courses. I sat there in bewilderment as my colleagues tasted wine and were able to call out flavors of everything from blueberries to chocolate and bananas. All I got in my nose was the burn from the alcohol.

Not wanting to give up, I persisted and one day while tasting a glass of California chardonnay, I picked up clear as a crystal bell the flavors of canned Bartlett pears. My ability to hone in on different smells in wine did not come immediately, and it took the better part of a year of swirling and sniffing before I got the hang of it.

In my early days of wine appreciation I favored fruit-forward selections such as red zinfandel, sweet riesling, New Zealand sauvignon blanc and Australian shiraz. I found the vibrant flavors in these wines were more pleasing to my palate. I have come to appreciate wines with less fruit and more acidity and structure, but the riper selections paved the road for me to get to this point.

Here are four of my suggestions for wine beginners.

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR ALPANA SINGH IS DIRECTOR OF WINE AND SPIRITS FOR LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU ENTERPRISES AND THE HOST OF "CHECK, PLEASE!" ON WTTW. ALPANASINGH.COM

Start with these wines



Apothic Red

California, \$13

This blend of zinfandel, merlot and syrah is on the riper end of the spectrum with a slight hint of sweetness on the finish. If you find traditional red wines such as cabernet sauvignon or even malbec too dry, give this a try.



Kung Fu Girl riesling

Washington state, \$12

The sweet and tart green apple flavors will appeal to those who find drier selections such as chardonnay too bitter or sour.



Matua sauvignon blanc

New Zealand, \$12

The grapefruit and passion fruit flavors offer the right amount of fruitiness without being too sweet or cloying.



Marquis Phillips Roogle shiraz

Australia, \$11

When I started drinking wine, shiraz was my go-to grape because I could identify and enjoy the flavors of blackberry jam, blueberry pie filling and robust spiciness.

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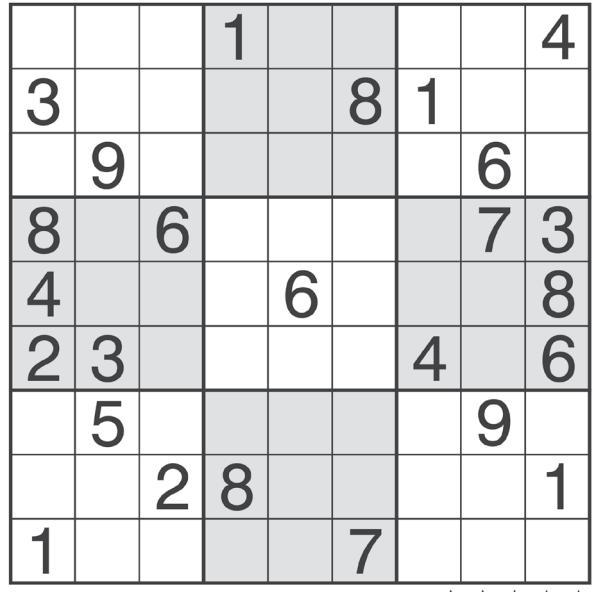


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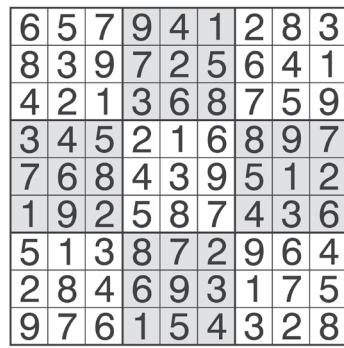
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

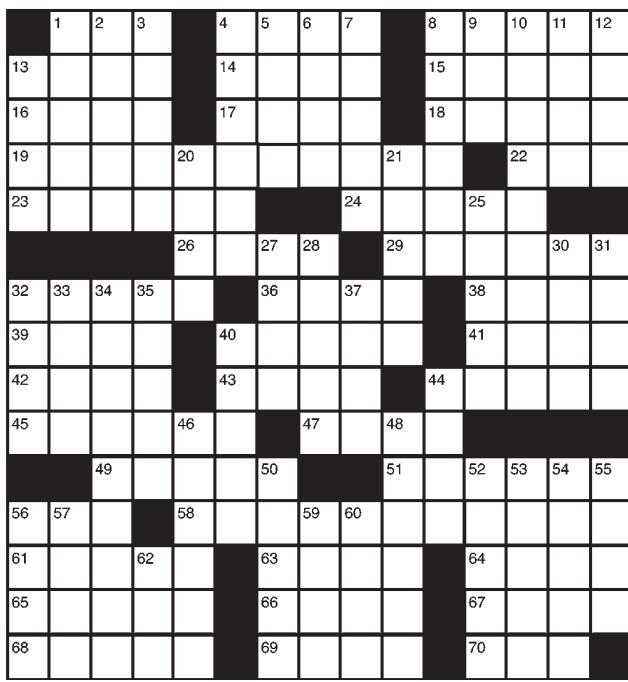


ACROSS

- 1 Bawl
- 4 "Get lost!"
- 8 Moral flaws
- 13 Twofold
- 14 Doughnut center
- 15 Early video game maker
- 16 Opening bet
- 17 Fury
- 18 Dinner course
- 19 Residents
- 22 Suffix for Japan or Nepal
- 23 Respiratory or circulatory
- 24 for; desire greatly
- 26 Barbecue attachment
- 29 capture; gets away
- 32 49ers & 76ers
- 36 "Phooey!"
- 38 Family member
- 39 Wheel shaft
- 40 Hunt illegally
- 41 Teacup's edge
- 42 Over 7 feet
- 43 Slender
- 44 Social division
- 45 One-celled organism
- 47 TV's Jay —
- 49 Water sources
- 51 Rather elderly
- 56 Wife of Mickey, Artie and Frank
- 58 Unlimited power
- 61 Zodiac sign
- 63 Dry
- 64 Genesis man
- 65 Creek
- 66 Summon
- 67 Not at all stiff
- 68 Adolescents
- 69 Leg joint
- 70 Tree secretion

DOWN

- 1 Like a bright, warm day
- 2 Sworn statements
- 3 Lamb's cry
- 4 Prawn
- 5 Outer garment
- 6 Seaweed
- 7 Very small
- 8 Feudal tenant
- 9 Give __ go; attempt
- 10 Girl Scout sale items
- 11 Historical times
- 12 __ with; support
- 13 Speaker's platform
- 20 Mrs. Truman
- 21 Molars



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Dance from Cuba 27 TV's "American __" 28 Mountain path 30 Send out, as light rays 31 Identical 32 Casual farewell 33 Quiz 34 Permitted 35 Free-for-all 37 Pinnacle 40 Biblical hymn 44 Young horse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 Swells 48 Head, humorously 50 Light refreshment 52 Passes out 52 53 Calcutta's nation 54 Rascal 55 Rope fiber 56 Dismounted 57 Climbing plant 59 Middle East nation 60 Stack 62 TV cartoon Chihuahua
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Is oral appliance therapy right for you? If you suffer from mild to moderate sleep apnea or are severe and are not wearing your CPAP as directed, then an oral appliance may be the alternative treatment you've been seeking. Wake up to a new treatment and a new you – the well rested, refreshed, less anxious you! Just imagine, the power of sleep in the palm of your hand.

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who

The Situation

No additional hot air required. ABC PHOTO

**Katy Perry/Elmo**

Yes, "Sesame Street" already has a float in the parade, but this year's greatest pop culture collabo/catastrophe deserves to be waaaaay up in the air where all the kids (and their parents) can see them. PBS, GETTY IMAGES PHOTO



The floating famous

Tradition is fine, but we've got some ideas for new Thanksgiving parade balloons

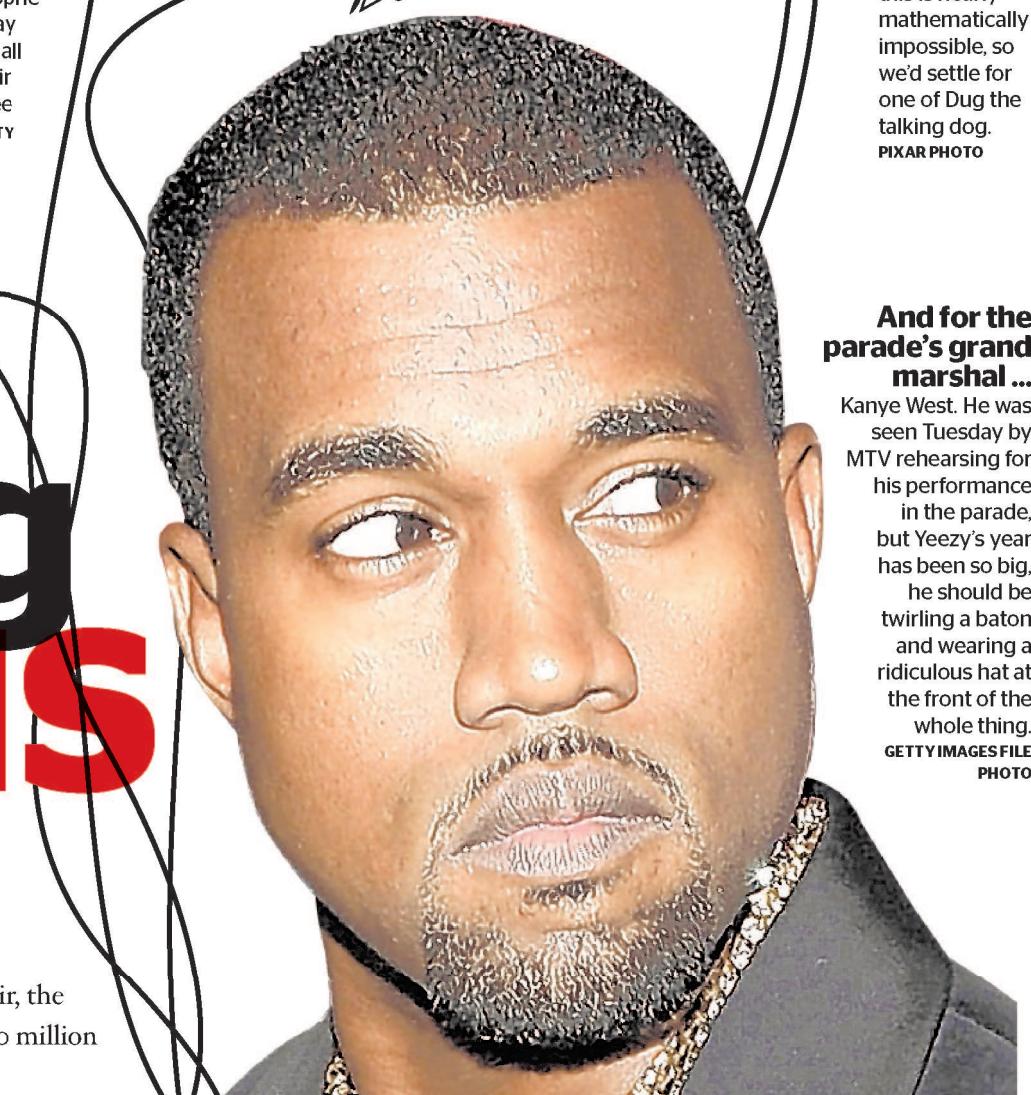
By Dana Moran | REDEYE

No matter if you get up early to watch or just DVR it and break out a lawn chair, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York takes the cake—er, pie—with 50 million people tuning in. Here are a few giant balloons we'd add to this year's lineup.

**Harry Potter**

He won't be insanely culturally relevant for much longer, so let's get everyone's favorite wizard up there on a broomstick. This would be made even more awesome by a tiny Golden Snitch balloon for the Harry balloon to catch, a la Quidditch.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PHOTO



**And for the
parade's grand
marshal ...**

Kanye West. He was seen Tuesday by MTV rehearsing for his performance in the parade, but Yeezy's year has been so big, he should be twirling a baton and wearing a ridiculous hat at the front of the whole thing.

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

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Al Piemonte Ford offers travel incentive.

To make it more affordable for shoppers to meet face to face with Al Piemonte Ford's credit department, the dealership has added a gift card incentive. Now customers who visit the Credit Department will be rewarded with a \$10 Target Gift Card.

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The dealership services all makes and models at its' Quick Lane, located on the southwest side of the dealership. Al Piemonte Ford is at 25th and North Avenue in Melrose Park. Appointments are recommended due to the extremely discounted price. Call 708-345-9300.

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Of course she did. While painting over gang graffiti in L.A. as part of her community service stemming from misdemeanor charges in August, socialite Paris Hilton was spotted wearing red sunglasses and Christian Louboutin heels, according to **usmagazine.com**. As they say, it's better to look good than to behave good. Or something.



Paris Hilton
GETTY IMAGES

It's Grey's day

Nothing, not a ruptured disc in her back, not even the Palin family name, puts Baby in a corner. "Dirty Dancing" star Jennifer Grey claimed the "Dancing With the Stars" Season 11 crown Tuesday and held off the juggernaut, voter-backed campaign of Bristol Palin. She and Disney Channel star Kyle Massey were cheerful runners-up.

Kanye for kids

Have you ever wondered what Kanye West's tweets would sound like if acted out by toddlers? Apparently, the folks at **babelgum.com** did. Adorable cherubs act out such prolific Ye observations as: "[This] hotel bathrobe got me feeling like a king." It's too cute, really. In other Ye-related news, frequent collaborator Dwele ("Power," "Flashing Lights") will appear Saturday at The Shrine.

"I always said it had to be someone who wasn't better looking than me and they achieved it."

Simon Cowell to The Associated Press, joking about his "America Idol" successor, Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler



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